MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the member the distance between the proposed bridge and the Alleppey Commercial Canal?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I do not remember.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the member when the revised estimates were called for from the Division Officer?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I think it was on 31-5-1933.

Closing of Departmental Schools.

107. ❋MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of departmental schools that have been closed in the year 1109 and in 1110 up to the 15th of Thulam.

(*b*) the number of non-departmental schools whose recognition has been withdrawn during the period beginning 1st Chingam 1109 and ending with 15th Thulam 1110; and

(*c*) whether, in the case of departmental schools that were closed because of the unsatisfactory condition of the school buildings, any attempt has been made to repair those buildings or to construct new buildings instead?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) 15.

(*b*) 44.

(*c*) The main reason for closing departmental schools was because the schools were unnecessary in the locality. In the case of schools closed permanently, the accommodation of which had been unsatisfactory, no attempt has been made to repair the buildings. Departmental schools are sometimes temporarily closed, while repairs are undertaken or new buildings are made available.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know from Government, with reference to the answer to part (*a*), the number of schools that have been permanently closed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Does the member want to know the number of schools closed at the time of answering the question?

MR K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Yes.

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is given in the answer as 15.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know the reason why they were closed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): The answer is given under part (*c*).

PRESIDENT: The answers are already in part (*c*). The member ought to read the answers before putting supplementary questions.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Sir, I have read the answers. What I want to know is whether all these 15 schools come under that category which are temporarily closed.

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MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Schools which have been temporarily closed owing to the need for accommodation and additional buildings have not been shown in the answer. 15 schools show the number of schools which have been permanently closed not for want of accommodation.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know the number of departmental schools that have been temporarily closed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): No departmental school has been permanently closed. Last year 8 schools which had to be temporarily closed for a few days have been reopened, after finding out temporary accommodation.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know how that temporary accommodation was found out?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): In different ways in different places.

PRESIDENT: The member cannot expect to have the details of each place separately for his answer.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know from Government whether they are put up in rented buildings?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Some of them are put up in rented buildings and some in buildings which have been lent to schools.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know from the member the longest period for which a school was temporarily closed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I can't give the accurate duration. But I think the maximum period is 15 days.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is there any special provision in the budget made for improving the conditions of the departmental school buildings?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is the ordinary item "for construction and repair of school buildings".

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know whether the Director has appraised the Government of the necessity of having good school buildings?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, he has.

School Hours.

108. ✻ MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any idea or proposal for changing the existing system of school hours; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what the proposal is?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) Yes, in respect of Vernacular Schools.

(*b*) To adjust the working hours in relation to the occupation of the parents and children of each local area.

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